

meal together—hopefully, a wonderful meal together with their parents and their moms and dads, their brothers and sisters, their children, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews—my hope is that when we give thanks, we will also remember to be thankful for the folks I talked about here today and the hundreds of thousands of people like them who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security.

One of the reasons we have the freedom we do as a nation is because of their vigilance and commitment to duty. So I extend that on behalf of all of the Members of the Senate to the folks who serve us in the Department of Homeland Security and throughout this government and to the folks who work in this building and who enable us by providing for Members and staff here in the Capitol and to the pages who are going to go home for a week or so and come back for maybe a week or so. We wish all of them a happy Thanksgiving, and we look forward to seeing all of you, including my friend the Presiding Officer in about 10 days.

With that, the majority leader is here. I am happy to yield the floor to him and wish him a happy Thanksgiving a few days in advance.

I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM “BILL” BISSETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a man who has been a great advocate for the people of Kentucky and a man I am proud to call a friend. Mr. William “Bill” Bissett, who served for more than 6 years as the president of the Kentucky Coal Association, KCA, helped lead the effort in Kentucky to spread awareness regarding the devastation the coal industry has seen over the past several years—devastation wrought in many cases by wrongheaded government regulations and daunting challenges within the energy market.

Unfortunately for Kentucky, Bill recently left his position with the KCA, and starting November 1, he moved on to take his talents to the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce as its new president and CEO. Bill’s departure is a great loss for the Commonwealth, and although he will certainly be missed, I wish him all the best in his new position.

As the people of Kentucky well know, the coal industry has not only supported and sustained life in the Bluegrass State for generations, it has also powered this Nation’s rise through the industrial revolution and through times of war to become the greatest country in the world.

Coal is forever intertwined with the history of Kentucky and the Nation, but recently, coal has been under attack. For the last 8 years, the current administration has waged a war on coal and a war on coal jobs. They would have us believe it is immoral to use coal, and they have pursued regula-

tions that aim to close coal mines and shut down coal-fired power plants that exist in Kentucky and prevent new ones from being built.

Even in the face of this hostile environment, in 2010, Bill Bissett took on a difficult job that many would have shrank from and became the president of the KCA. Since then, he has been on the front lines fighting against government overregulation and overreach. And I have been proud to stand alongside Bill to defend Kentucky’s coal workers and their families against an administration dead set on waging a war on coal, a war which has contributed to the closure of mines and an increase in unemployment.

Bill and I worked together in taking Kentucky’s case for coal and for coal jobs to the EPA. When the EPA first held hearings on the set of regulations that would become the so-called Clean Power Plan—regulations that threaten to close down power plants in Kentucky and reduce jobs—Bill and I worked together in calling for them to hold listening sessions in Kentucky so EPA could hear from the people who would be most affected by its new rules.

When the EPA refused to come to Kentucky and only held hearings in States with little reliance on coal like California and Massachusetts, Bill and the KCA joined me in making sure our voices were heard. We convened our own hearings in Pikeville, where coal miners and Kentuckians with jobs reliant on the coal industry spoke about how EPA’s proposed regulations would impact them. We also took our case directly to the EPA in Washington, DC, when it conducted one of its listening sessions on the so-called Clean Power Plan, which threatens to cut more coal jobs in Kentucky and increase electricity prices in the State by double digits.

These are just a few highlights of Bill’s tenure with KCA. Before coming to KCA, Bill worked as chief of staff/senior vice president for communications at Marshall University, his alma mater. Prior to that he served as vice president of public relations for Charles Ryan Associate, CRA, an integrated marketing firm. During his time at CRA, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Friends of Coal campaign. Bill and his wife, Lara, are devoted parents to two daughters, Molly and Maggie.

From the beginning of his tenure at KCA to the very end, Bill Bissett worked with great energy and enthusiasm on behalf of Kentuckians who work in the coal industry. He was a great advocate for coal miners. Kentucky’s loss is truly Huntington’s gain, and I wish Bill well in his future endeavors with the regional chamber of commerce and beyond. On behalf of the thousands of Kentuckians touched by Bill’s work, I want to thank him for his service to the Bluegrass State and his advocacy to preserve our history and heritage. He is always welcome back in Kentucky, where he has many friends.

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDA YU

Mr. DURBIN. Earlier this year, Linda Yu, one of Chicago’s most respected and well-liked broadcasters, announced that she will anchor her final newscast next Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

For more than 37 years, Linda Yu has reported the news in Chicago and set a high bar for those who follow. Linda is one of the special ones. She has an outstanding ability to connect with her viewers, which has ingratiated her to Chicagoans. A viewer once told her that “when things go wrong, you make me feel safe.” That’s what Linda Yu means to Chicago. She is a comfort to a city during difficult times and a trusted voice. Linda is the consummate professional, class act, and trailblazer. As the first Asian American to anchor a news broadcast in Chicago, Linda has become a role model for children aspiring to the newsroom, regardless of race or gender. That is quite a legacy.

Linda’s story is a uniquely American story. Born in Xian, China, Linda moved to Hong Kong with her family when she was only 2 years old. Three years later, they immigrated to the United States, living in Pennsylvania and Indiana, before settling in California. In 1968, Linda Yu graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor of arts in journalism. Shortly after, she began her career at the ABC-owned affiliates KTLA-TV and KABC-TV in Los Angeles, before moving to what became her home away from home, Chicago, IL. In 1979, Linda joined Chicago’s WMAQ-TV. Five years later, she joined ABC 7’s 4 p.m. newscast. And for the next 32 years, it was the No. 1 newscast. How is that for a winning streak?

Among her accolades, Linda Yu earned five Chicago Emmy Awards. Her first came in 1981, for a special newscast on the assassination attempt on President Reagan. One year later, Linda received her second Emmy for her report and coverage of a construction accident in Chicago’s downtown loop. In 2005, Linda was honored by the Chicago chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the prestigious Silver Circle, honoring her for 25 years of outstanding contributions to Chicago broadcasting. Linda also received the National Gold Medal from the National Conference of Community and Justice for her documentary “The Scars of Belfast.”

Linda Yu has had an amazing career and is an extraordinarily accomplished professional. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Chinese American Service League, the March of Dimes, Asian Human Services and Juvenile Protective Association. She also cofounded the Chicago Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association. But her proudest accomplishment is her family. The mother of a daughter, Francesca, and a son, Bryan, Linda now plans on spending more time with them and writing her next book. Her first book, a memoir, “Living and Working in America, 15 lessons,” published in Chinese, is a guide to help